

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Status of Claims:

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 12, and cancelled claims 2, 3, 5 and 6.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1-16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 due to stated reasons.

In response, Applicants have amended the subject claims accordingly herein.

Withdrawal of the above rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 5, 7, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kenichi JP 10-50481. Claims 2 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenichi. Claims 8, 9 and 12 stand rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenichi in view of Yutaka JP 2000-082588. Claim 13 stands rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenichi in view of Yoshikazu UP 11-273869. Lastly, claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenichi in view of Seki U.S. patent application publication 2005/0264182.

In sum, claims 3 and 4 have not been rejected under §102 and §103 based upon prior art. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include all of the limitations of claims 2 and 3 (as originally filed). Claim 4 has been amended to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening dependent claim 2 (as originally filed). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 4 are now allowable. The other pending claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

In light of the foregoing response, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under §102 and §103 be withdrawn, and all the claims be allowed such that this application may expeditiously pass to issue.

AUTHORIZATION

No fees are believed to be due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Document to Deposit Account No. **504827** Order No. **1004378-53060**.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **504827**, Order No. **1004378-53060**.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 6, 2009

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